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Message Text

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70
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 /057 W
---------- 001543
R 040920Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1635
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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BANGKOK PASS SONGKHLA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS PFOR MY TH
SUBJ: MALAYSIA/THAILAND BORDER SECURITY MATTERS

REF: KL A-138

1. NOV 2 "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) REPORTED THAT MANAGER OF BEACH RESORT HOTEL NEAR KOTA BHARU, KELANTAN STATE, WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED SEPT 22 AND HELD FOR RANSOM IN THAILAND, HAD BEEN RELEASED PREVIOUS DAY. ACCORDING TO NST ACCOUNT, FOLLOWING RELEASE THE HOTEL MANAGER WAS HANDED OVER BY NARATHIWAT (THAILAND) GOVERNOR VATCHARA SINGKRIVIBUL TO SAFE CUSTODY OF KELANTAN DEPUTY CHIEF POLICE OFFICER IN CEREMONY AT DISTRICT OFFICE IN SUNGEI GOLOK ON THAI SIDE OF BORDER. ALSO PRESENT WAS THAI CONSUL BASED IN KOTA BHARU. NST CITED THAI SOURCES AS SAYING VICTIM HAD BEEN ABDUCTED NEAR HIS HOTEL BY A "MALAYSIAN-THAI GANG" AND TAKEN ACROSS THE BORDER TO TAKBAI DISTRICT IN SOUTH THAILAND, WHERE EVENTUALLY POLICE WERE ABLE TO TRACE AND FREE HIM.

2. GOVERNOR SINGKRIVIBUL REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER INCREASE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN PROVINCES AND ALONG MALWYSIAN-THAI BORDER, COMMENTING THAT
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THAI AUTHORITIES COULD NOT TACKLE PROBLEM ON THEIR OWN. "ONLY

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THROUGH EXISTING FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION OF JOINT FORCES
CAN BOTH COUNTRIES TRACK DOWN TERRORISTS AND BANDITS,"
HE ADDED.

3. COMMENT: THIS KIDNAPPING INCIDENT WAS A CAUSE CELEBRE IN
KELANTAN BUT WAS ONLY THE MOST PROMINENT IN SPATE OF
RECENT KIDNAPPINGS, OTHERS OF WHICH UNREPORTED AS FAMILIES
SOUGHT TO NEGOTIATE BEHIND THE SCENES FOR RETURN OF VICTIMS
(SEE REFAIR). SUCH INCIDENTS ARE SYMPTOMATIC OF DECLINE
OF SECURITY IN BORDER AREAS ATTRIBUTED TO BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND
ORDER ON THAI SIDE. BASED ON THIS FRAGMENTARY REPORT IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE, HOWEVER, TO DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT SAFE RETURN
OF VICTIM WAS EFFECTED, IF AT ALL, BY COOPERATION
BETWEEN THAI AND MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES.
UNDERHILL

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